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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,614	11/12/2003	Bernd Glunk	1-73810	5863
27377	7590	05/18/2006	EXAMINER	
MACMILLAN, SOBANSKI & TODD, LLC			LEE, EDMUND H	
ONE MARITIME PLAZA-FOURTH FLOOR				
720 WATER STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
TOLEDO, OH 43604			1732	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/706,614	GLUNK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	EDMUND H. LEE	1732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 and 20-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 and 21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-12,20 and 22-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/6/06.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 4 and 21 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention , there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 12/12/05.
2. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-3,5-12,20, and 22-26 in the reply filed on 12/12/05 is acknowledged.
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1,2,3,5,7,8,9,11,12,20,22,23, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagayama et al (USPN 5854149). Nagayama et al teach the claimed process as evidenced at col 1, Ins 10-15; col 3, Ins 25-30; col 4, Ins 58-65; col 6, Ins 35-45; col 10, Ins 42-55; col 12, In 58-col 15, In 30; col 18, Ins 43-52; col 22, Ins 41-62col 24, In 15-col 25, In 23; and figs 1-21. It should be noted that the foam layer of the skin of Nagayama et al constitutes the claimed core layer. It should also be noted that the stampable sheet or light weight stampable sheet (thermoplastic resin film) of Nagayama et al constitutes the claimed reinforcement layer.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 6,10,24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagayama et al (USPN 5854149). The above teachings of Nagayama et al are incorporated hereinafter. Nagayama et al, however, do not teach carrying out step d before the application of the decorative layer; heating the decorative layer and laminating it to the sandwich; using the same foam material for both the core layer and the element; and using material for the element having the claimed softening temperature. In regard to carrying out step d before the application of the decorative layer, such is well-known in the molding art in order to prevent damage to the decorative layer. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the decorative layer of Nagayama et al after the molding in order to avoid the possibility of damaging the decorative layer during molding. In regard to heating the decorative layer and laminating it to the sandwich, such is well-known in the molding art in order to ensure proper bonding of layers. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to laminate a heated decorative layer to the foam layer of Nagayama et al in order to form the decorative layer of Nagayama et al. In regard to using the same foam material for both the core layer and the element, such is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on the desired final product and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the same material for the core layer and element in order to ensure a proper bond

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between the layer and element. In regard to using material for the element having the claimed softening temperature, such is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on the desired final product and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an element having the claimed softening temperature in the process of Nagayama et al in order to form a high quality element.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents show the state of the art: USPN 6375778; and JP 10338082 A.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDMUND H. LEE whose telephone number is 571.272.1204. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY FROM 9AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianni can be reached on 571.272.1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

EHL


